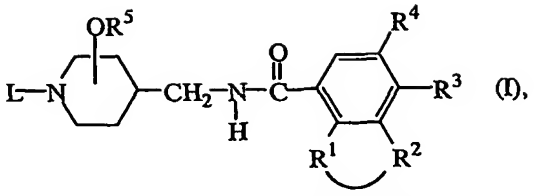
Claims

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I),

a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, an *N*-oxide form thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, wherein

$-R^1-R^2-$ is a bivalent radical of formula

$-O-CH_2-O-$ (a-1),

$-O-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-2),

$-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-$ (a-3),

$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-4),

$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-$ (a-5),

$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-6),

$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-$ (a-7),

$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-8),

wherein in said bivalent radicals optionally one or two hydrogen atoms on the same or a different carbon atom may be replaced by C_{1-6}alkyl or hydroxy,

R^3 is hydrogen, halo, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}alkyloxy;

R^4 is hydrogen, halo, C_{1-6}alkyl; C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with cyano, or C_{1-6}alkyloxy; C_{1-6}alkyloxy; cyano; amino or mono or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino;

R^5 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl, and the $-OR^5$ radical is situated at the 3- or 4-position of the piperidine moiety;

L is a radical of formula

$-Alk-R^6$ (b-1),

$-Alk-X-R^7$ (b-2),

$-Alk-Y-C(=O)-R^9$ (b-3),

wherein each Alk is C_{1-12}alkanediyl; and

R^6 is aryl;

R^7 is aryl;

X is O, S, SO_2 or NR^8; said R^8 being hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^9 is aryl;

Y is a direct bond, O, S, or NR^{10} wherein R^{10} is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl; and

aryl represents phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from hydroxycarbonyl.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the $-OR^5$ radical is situated at the 3-position of the piperidine moiety having the trans configuration.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein the absolute configuration of said piperidine moiety is (3S, 4S).

4. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 wherein L is a radical of formula (b-2) wherein Alk is C_{1-4}alkanediyl, and R^7 is aryl wherein aryl is phenyl substituted with hydroxycarbonyl.

5. A compound as claimed in claim 4 wherein Alk is 1,3-propanediyl or 1,4-butanediyl.

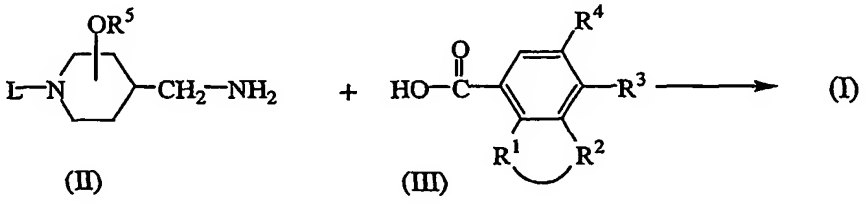
6. A compound as claimed in claim 5 wherein R^7 is aryl wherein aryl is phenyl substituted with hydroxycarbonyl situated at the 3- or 4-position of the phenyl moiety.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically active amount of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 6.

8. A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 wherein a therapeutically active amount of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 is intimately mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

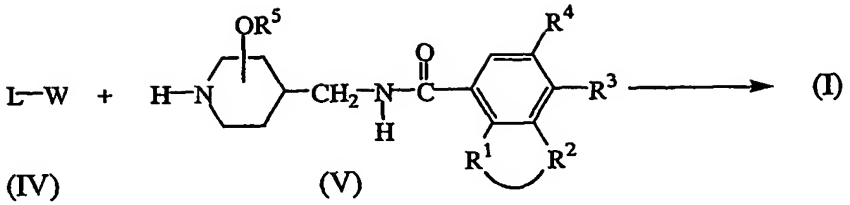
9. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 for use as a medicine.

10. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein
    a) an intermediate of formula (II) is reacted with an carboxylic acid derivative of formula (III) or a reactive functional derivative thereof;



(II) (III) (I)

    b) an intermediate of formula (IV) is *N*-alkylated with an intermediate of formula (V), in a reaction-inert solvent and, optionally in the presence of a suitable base;



wherein in the above reaction schemes the radicals -R^1-R^2-, R^3, R^4, R^5, and L are as defined in claim 1 and W is an appropriate leaving group;

c) or, compounds of formula (I) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (I) is converted into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (I) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.